

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1179

Introduced by Assembly Member Calderon

February 23, 2001

An act to add Section 4603.3 to the Labor Code, relating to workers' compensation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1179, as introduced, Calderon. Workers' compensation: billing or utilization review procedures.

Existing law relating to workers' compensation requires an employer to notify the treating physician of an injured worker within 30 days if the billing for services submitted by the physician is going to be contested, denied, or determined to be incomplete. Existing law also requires incomplete billings to state all additional information necessary to make a decision concerning the billing.

This bill would require any employer or insurer that employs an individual or contracts with an entity to conduct a review of a billing submitted by a physician to provide that individual or entity with all documentation submitted by the physician, along with a copy of the billing and any preauthorization for services. This bill would also prohibit the individual or entity conducting the review from reducing a treating physician's billing for services unless the submitted documentation has been reviewed by that individual or entity.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 4603.3 of the Labor Code is added to
2 read:
3 4603.3. Whenever an employer or insurer employs an
4 individual or contracts with an entity to conduct a review of a
5 billing submitted by a physician, the employer or insurer shall
6 provide that individual or entity with all documentation submitted
7 by the physician for the date of service being billed, along with a
8 copy of the billing and any authorization for services that may have
9 been preauthorized. An individual or entity reviewing a bill
10 submitted by a physician or insurer shall not reduce the amount of
11 the bill unless the documentation submitted by the physician has
12 been reviewed by that individual or entity. Any review conducted
13 pursuant to this section shall be subject to the provisions of Section
14 9792.6 of Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations.

